

a real control over its destinies, "have induced a large proportion of the population to look with envy at the material prosperity of their neighbors in the United States, under a perfectly free and eminently responsible government, and in despair of obtaining such benefits under their present institutions to desire the adoption of a Republican Constitution, or even an incorporation with the American Union."

The Lower Provinces are "eminently loyal," but Lord Durham warns ministers against depending too much even on that feeling. The retention of the N. A. Colonies by an armed force, is out of the question. "The expenditures of the last two years" forbid that, and one million pounds sterling annually in the colonies, "will barely enable us to attain that end." Without a change in the government, the discontent which now prevails will spread and advance; for in proportion as the cost of retaining them increases, their value will diminish.

On Lord Durham's first arrival in Canada, he was strongly inclined to the project of a Federal Union. But as any power the French Canadians might possess, he doubts not, would be used against the policy and very existence of "every form of British Government," "tranquility," he thinks, "can only be restored by subjecting that province to the rigorous rule of an English majority, and the only efficacious government would be that formed by a Legislative Union" of the two Canadas, subject to be extended hereafter "over all the British Provinces in North America," which plan, it seems was approved of thirty-four years ago, by the Queen of England's father, then Duke of Kent.

Lord Durham therefore "without any hesitation" recommends the introduction of a Bill into Parliament for repealing the Stat. of Geo. III, restoring the union of the Canadas under one Legislature, and reconstituting them as one Province, with provisions to admit, with the consent of the two Canadas, or their Legislature, any or all of the other N. A. Colonies: on application of the Legislature thereof, a parliamentary commission should be appointed for the purpose of forming electoral divisions, and determining the number of members to be returned, as near as may be "in proportion to population," with temporary power to the governor of suspending by proclamation the issue of writs for the electoral districts "recently the seats of rebellion."

Lord D. considers the present constitution of the Legislative Councils of those provinces "inconsistent with sound principles." It will be, therefore, necessary that Parliament should revise the constitution of those bodies. The report recommends, without entering into details, "a system of local government by elective bodies subordinate to the general legislature, and exercising a complete control over such local affairs as do not come within the province of general legislation." These municipalities, he suggests, should be formed by act of the British Parliament.

A general executive, "on an improved principle," not explained, together with a supreme court of appeal, "for all the North American Colonies," and the entire administration of the public lands by an Imperial authority, are next recommended.

All the revenues of the Crown, except those derived from lands, to be at once given up to the United Legislature, on concession of an adequate Civil List.—The responsibility of the Colonial functionaries, except the Governor and his Secretary, to the United Legislature, is strongly dwelt upon—and the governor it is added, should carry on his government by heads of departments in whom the Legislature place confidence, [a sort of Colonial Ministry.]

The Judges, he says should hold office during good behaviour, with permanent salaries, as in England. No money votes to originate in the Legislature without the previous consent of the Crown. Past provisions with respect to clergy reserves, and the application of funds arising from them to be repealed. The report concludes by impressing on Ministers the necessity of "a prompt and decisive settlement of this important question."

PROSPECTS OF WAR IN EUROPE.—There are strong symptoms of a rupture between Belgium and some of the despotic powers which may lead to a general war in Europe.

The Polish Gen. Skrzynecki, celebrated in the last struggle of the Poles for freedom, had been appointed to a command in the Belgian army; and in consequence of this the Prussian and Austrian ambassadors had demanded their passports.

Previous to demanding their passports the Austrian ambassador at Brussels, presented to the minister for foreign affairs, a note from Prince Metternich, in which the escape of General Skrzynecki from Prague is considered as having been made with the co-operation of the Belgian government, and this, together with his admission into the army, is styled a hostile demonstration against Austria. The terms of the note are said to have been strong and menacing; and the Prussian ambassador having supported it, demanded in consequence his passports at the same time.

A letter from Brussels states that the Belgian charges at Vienna and Berlin had been called home; and that the King refused an audience of leave to the Austrian ambassador, prior to his departure.

The Belgian government was making preparations for war. Notice had been published from the War Office that the government was ready to make large purchases of horses; and this notice was issued in consequence of the refusal of the Prussian government to allow the exportation of horses, 3000 having been expected by the Belgian government from the kingdom.

Both France and Prussia are adding strength to their respective armies of observation on the frontier of Belgium.

The wife and daughter of General Skrzynecki, are about to leave Bohemia and reside in London.

LATEST ENGLISH NEWS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Feb. 14.—Mr. O'Connell presented a petition from 10,000 inhabitants of Dublin, for a real union of Ireland with England, or none at all. They asked for an equality of representation, and that the majority should not be compelled to support the church of the minority. He gave notice that on the 28th he should bring in a bill upon the subject.

Mr. Leader presented a petition from two lawyers of Montreal, complaining that they had been deprived of their liberty unlawfully.

The petitioners stated, that on the 4th of November last, they were forcibly torn from their families and conveyed to prison by certain persons acting as the agents of her Majesty's government, without a warrant or any accusation being made against them, and, as they believed, under the order of the present Governor of Canada, Sir John Colborne; that there appeared to be a *carte blanche* given to denounce any person in the colony as a traitor, and thus there was an opportunity for serious attacks being made on the liberty of the subject; that they, the petitioners, were detained in prison until the 18th of Dec. when the jailer ordered them to go out; that they had written to Sir J. Colborne demanding the reasons of their detention, and that they might be allowed a proper trial, but that to these demands no answer had been returned; that certain commissioners, however, had been appointed to examine into their case, and the commissioners themselves had acknowledged that they were detained in prison without any accusation, and they believed that that was known to the Executive at the time; but they feared that in consequence of the acts and ordinances that had been made, the petitioners were deprived of the right of trial. They, therefore, came to this house to ask that justice which they could not obtain in their own country. The hon. member gave notice that he should call the attention of the house to the petition on the 28th of Feb.

[The petitioners are supposed to be Messrs. Lafontaine and Mondelet.]

Lord John Russell was strongly urged to declare what course ministers intended to pursue on the subject of the Corn Laws, having formerly intimated that he should do so on that day. But his Lordship would not.

In answer to Sir R. Peel, Lord Palmerston said the papers relating to the affairs of India should be placed before the house on the next day. Lord John Russell intimated that great caution would be exercised in producing the papers on this subject, as it was one of much difficulty and delicacy—and Sir R. Peel said he was glad to hear it.

Up to 14th. 214 petitions had been presented to the British Parliament for the repeal of the Corn Laws, containing an aggregate of 369,857 names.

TWO DAYS LATER.

By the Packet ship Sheffield, English dates to the 2d of March, inclusive, have been received. We extract the following summary from the N. Y. Times, of the 30th March.

PARLIAMENTARY.—In the house of Commons on the 27th ult., Lord John Russell stated that a bill for Canada might be introduced before Easter, but that it would not be read a second time until three weeks after Easter. The subject having been broached by a question from Sir R. Peel, Mr. O'Connell spoke emphatically against the effusion of blood. Mr. Labouchere, the new under-Secretary for the Colonies, denied that there had been any unnecessary effusion; sixteen persons have been executed in Upper Canada, and twelve in Lower Canada. Mr. O'Connell said that one was too many.

Mr. Villiers gave notice that he would move a committee of the whole House, on the 12th of March, to take into consideration the Corn Laws. Mr. Christopher immediately announced a call of the house for that day, and Mr. Cayley that he would move resolutions that the Corn Laws had essentially answered the purposes of their enactment. A stormy debate was anticipated.

In the House of Commons, on the 28th February, Mr. Leader said, that he would withdraw the notice he had given relative to a petition from Montreal until after the Government measure with respect to Canada was brought forward, as the noble Lord had said he should introduce it before Easter. But he wished it to be distinctly understood that if the Government did not very shortly bring in the Canada measure, he should submit a motion to the House on the subject of the petition.

Mr. O'Connell moved, on the 28th, for leave to bring in a bill for the extension of the elective franchise. Negatived, 155 to 92.

SUMMARY.

Lord Glenelg has retired from the Colonial office, and is succeeded by the Marquis of Normanby, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, which office is filled by Lord Ebury.

Sir Geo. Grey, late Under Secretary for the Colonies has been appointed Judge Advocate, and Mr. Labouchere fills his place in the Colonial department.

There has been a dreadful earthquake at Martinique.

The British army estimates from April 1839 to April 1840 amount to £6,139,311.

EAST INDIES.—The retirement of Sir H. Fane from the chief command of the army in India, is announced in the Bombay papers. Sir John Keane was in command of the army marching against Cabul and 4,000 more troops were ordered to join him from Bombay.

It was reported that orders had been received at Madras to embark a large force for operations against Burmah.

The Bombay Courier of Dec. 29 says that the Belooches and Scindians were collecting in large bodies to oppose the march of the British, and that the Amers (rulers) of Scinde were fortifying their capital, Hyderabad.

A letter from a British officer on the Bengal establishment states that all the independent native powers were collecting their forces and strengthening their positions, and that the first reverse sustained by the British would be the signal for a general rising against them.

THE CHARTISTS.—On Monday evening the Radicals' Chapel, at Middleton, was crowded to excess, when John Plant, a schoolmaster from Heywood, gave a lecture on the propriety of having fire arms, in the course of which he said, that all those who intended to break their shuttles and cut up their looms, if the national petition was rejected must hold up their hands; and this was done by about three fourths of the parties present. The lecturer added that he should only wait till the 2d of March. Since meeting, many are expected to give up working after the 2d of March. The firing at night still continues.—[Manchester Guardian.]

THE CORN LAWS. There is a calm, but it is only the lull between the past and coming storm—on the subject of the Corn Laws. The delegates had broken up their meetings, separated and left London.

Mr. Stevenson had long interviews with Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell, on the 28th. of February.

Lord Glenelg has expressed to Lord Durham the Queen's satisfaction, and that of her Government, with his Report on the affairs of Canada.

FRANCE.—The elections were the all absorbing subject in France. It was believed in Paris that the ministers would be successful in nine arrondissements out of thirteen, but that they would be beaten in the departments.

UNITED STATES.

[From L'Estafette 2d. April.]

FRONTIER WAR.

The new world is a child, its most violent quarrels are mere poutings. It is equally quick in its reconciliation and in its pet. Yesterday America was defying Europe; to day it extends to it the hand of friendship. In the south with Frenchmen and Mexicans; in the north with Americans and Englishmen: reconciliation is made. It is really amusing.

Eight days ago we expressed our opinion that the hopes of peace were compromised by the conduct of the Governor and Legislature of Maine. It appeared to us that too many concessions were asked from England and above all the manner in which they were asked, was too imperious not to wound English pride, with the somewhat rough language of those who were formerly its vassals. Our fears were groundless,—the following documents will explain better than we can ourselves, how the business is ended.

IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE.

Head Quarters, Eastern Division,
United States Army,
Augusta, Me. March 21, 1839.

The undersigned, a Major General in the Army of the United States being specially charged with maintaining the peace and safety of their entire Northern and Eastern Frontiers, having cause to apprehend a collision of arms between the proximate forces of New Brunswick and the State of Maine on the disputed territory which is claimed by both, has the honor, in the sincere desire of the United States to preserve the relations of peace and amity with Great Britain—relations which might be much endangered by such untoward collision—to invite from His Excellency Major General Sir John Harvey, Lieutenant Governor, &c. &c., a general declaration to this effect.

That it is not the intention of the Lieutenant Governor of Her Britannic Majesty's Province of New Brunswick, under the expected renewal of negotiations between the Cabinets of London and Washington, on the subject of the said disputed territory, without renewed instructions to that effect from his Government, to seek to take the Military possession of that territory, or to seek to expel therefrom the armed Civil posse, of the troops of Maine.

Should the undersigned have the honor to be favored with such declaration or assurance to be by him communicated to his Excellency the Governor of the State of Maine, the undersigned does not in the least doubt that he would be immediately and fully authorized by the Governor of Maine

to communicate to His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick a corresponding declaration to the effect:—

That in the hope of a speedy and satisfactory settlement, by negotiation between the Governments of the United States and Great Britain of the principal or boundary question between the State of Maine and the Province of New Brunswick, it is not the intention of the Governor of Maine, without renewed instructions from the Legislature of the State, to attempt to disturb by arms, the said Province in the possession of the Madawaska settlements, or to attempt to interrupt the usual communications between that Province and Her Majesty's Upper Provinces; and that he is willing in the mean time, to leave the questions of possession and jurisdiction as they at present stand; that is, Great Britain holding in fact, possession of a part of the said territory, and the Government of Maine denying her right to such possession; and the State of Maine holding in fact, possession of another portion of the same territory to which her right is denied by Great Britain.

With this understanding the Governor of Maine will, without unnecessary delay, withdraw the Military force of the State from the said disputed territory—leaving only, under a Land Agent, a small civil posse, armed or unarmed, to protect the timber recently cut, and to prevent future depredations.

Reciprocal assurances of the foregoing friendly character having been, through the undersigned interchanged, all danger of collision between the immediate parties to the controversy will be at once removed, and time allowed the United States and Great Britain to settle amicably the great question of limits.

The undersigned has much pleasure in renewing to his Excellency Major General Sir John Harvey the assurances of his ancient high consideration and respect,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

To a copy of the foregoing, Sir John Harvey annexed the following:—

The undersigned, Major General Sir John Harvey, Lieutenant Governor of Her Britannic Majesty's Province of New Brunswick, having received a proposition from Major General Winfield Scott of the United States Army, of which the foregoing is a copy, hereby, on his part signifies his concurrence and acquiescence therein.

Sir John Harvey renews with great pleasure to Major General Scott, the assurance of his warmest personal consideration, regard and respect.

J. HARVEY.

Government House, Fredericton,
New Brunswick, March 23, 1839.

To a paper containing the note of Gen. Scott, and the acceptance of Sir John Harvey, Governor Fairfield annexed his acceptance in these words.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
Augusta, March 25, 1839. }

The undersigned, Governor of Maine, in consideration of the foregoing, the exigency for calling out the troops of Maine having ceased, has no hesitation in signifying his entire acquiescence in the proposition of Major General Scott.

The undersigned has the honor to tender Major General Scott the assurances of his high respect and esteem.

JOHN FAIRFIELD.

We copy from the Kennebec Journal, some remarks upon the present settlement of the Boundary difficulties.

"Our apprehensions have been from the beginning, not that Maine would push the matter too far, but that she would not push it far enough to accomplish her object; that the matter would be hushed up too easily, and we should be left in the lurch, without gaining much. Our apprehensions we think are more than realized. Sir John Harvey has in this business practiced on the old policy by which the British have been constantly encroaching upon us. He has claimed much, that he might gain a little, by splitting the difference to make peace. He has given up the Aroostook which he never had, to gain all the upper waters of the St. John and a free passage up that river to Canada. He has taken the lion's share, and is no doubt well satisfied, as well he may be, with the present arrangement. The British Government will now be ready to negotiate from this time forward indefinitely, having both the consent of Maine and the General Government to retain jurisdiction over all that part of our State which they actually want and have been so long contending for."

NORTH AMERICAN:

SWANTON, APRIL 10, 1839.

More British Outrages!!

Colborne's Fire-brand in Vermont—new attempts to assassinate Americans on their own soil!!

At this moment the people on this frontier are in a state of excitement, better imagined than described, in consequence of the numerous incendiary acts of the British authorities along the lines.

Some two or three weeks since, a party of volunteers came out from Canada and burned a barn belonging to Mr. Covey in Alburgh, an unoffending, quiet, peaceable citizen of

these Independent (?) United States. On the evening of the 29th ult. a barn belonging to Charles Millar, in St. Armand, L. c. was burned, with its contents, some say by the carelessness or design of one of the volunteer cavalry stationed at Millar's; others thought the circumstances justified them in pronouncing it an act of retaliation on the part of the refugees; knowing that they had been burned out, hanged out, and hunted out by the Tories of Canada, this conclusion was a very natural, but perhaps unjust one. The matter is undergoing investigation, and we hope it will result in the honorable acquittal of the refugees. Destruction of property will never compensate for the loss of home, kindred, and friends. However sweet REVENGE may be, it has its evil consequences.

But we have now to speak, not of matters of uncertainty, but of undeniable and serious facts; facts that would startle our readers, had they never heard of Britain, her Colbornes and her M'Nabs. We speak of recent unprovoked outrages, perpetrated on the citizens of Vermont, by beings employed by the Queen, as we have hitherto supposed, to kill, plunder, and burn her own subjects only. Believing with the Poet, that "Coming events cast their shadows before," they have already had a foretaste of their miserable condition when they shall be discharged on the first of May—without money, without business, without friends. To secure themselves a livelihood it is only necessary to keep up a little border difficulty. So on the night of the 30th ult. they came over and burned the barn of Mr. John Barr, in Highgate, a man who had always afforded a shelter to their families and effects, when they got frightened out by the Patriots. This shows how grateful they are to those who befriend them.

As a further proof of their gratitude, they came over again on Sunday night, the 31st, and manifested their red hot affection for Mr. Stimet, by burning his barn also, after being surprised in an attempt to fire Nath'l Johnson's. Three volunteers attempted the same night to fire barns belonging to Mr. Brewer, in Highgate, but luckily he was watching for them. Just as they were getting over the fence near him he hailed, whereupon they fired and lodged their balls close by his head in the corn-barn, in the shade of which he was standing. He returned the fire, but without effect.

Finding that affairs were assuming a serious aspect on the frontier, Brig. Gen. Nason promptly repaired to the spot. Officers from Canada came out & proposed terms of peace, we are told, the conditions of which the General could not comply with while acting under a Republican government. Among other things it is said that they ask for the suppression of this paper and the surrender of the refugees. They affirmed that they entertained no feelings but those of the purest friendship,